MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) to (d) Most of the food processing industries except brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for Small Scale Sector are delicensed and the entrepreneurs are only to file Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda. However, under the Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 1958 and Rules thereunder licence is required for carrying out rice milling operations. The concerned State Governments are empowered to issue licences under this Act. Action has already been initiated for repealing the said Act.

Foreign and Private Sector Investment in Power Transmission and Distribution

1488. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign and private sector investment made in power transmission and distribution network in the country, Statewise, during the last 3 years and results achieved; and

(b) the details regarding estimated requirement of investment in this sector for the current year and projections for the next 5 years, with integrated/ coordinated plan of action to overcome the problems faced because of weak and inadequate transmissionVdistribution Network, State wise, particularly for Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Electrification of Villages in the North-Eastern States

1489. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the North-Eastern States proposed to be electrified during 1996-97;

(b) the time schedule drawn for their electrification; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on such electrification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) The Annual Plan 1996-97 of Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) proposes the following programme for the year 1996-97 in the North-Eastern States:—

s. No.	States	Village	Financial* allocation (Rs/lakhs)
i.	Arunachal Pradesh	95	995
2.	Assam	280	2075
3.	Manipur	75	925
4.	Meghalaya	40	770
5	Mizoram	15	475
6.	Nagaland	—	215
7.	Tripura	20	500
	TOTAL	525	5955

The electrification of these 525 villages is scheduled to be completed by the end of March 1997.

*Financial allocation includes allocation for Village Electrification, Pumpset Energisation, Load Intensification and System Improvement etc.

Private Sector Power Projects

1490. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be